

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water-absorbent resin ~~made from an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid as an essential monomer characterized in that~~, wherein said process comprises:

~~allowing adding a metal chelating agent to be present at any step in the process~~ preparation of a water-absorbent resin, wherein said water-absorbent resin is made from an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid as an essential monomer, and wherein said metal chelating agent is added in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid; and

adding a reducing agent or an oxidizing agent thereto in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid before initiation of drying and/or during drying of a gelated product containing a water-absorbent resin obtained by polymerization.

2. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is a sulfite, a hydrogensulfite, a dithionite or a pyrosulfite.

3. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.

4. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the metal chelating agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid, trans-1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetraacetic acid, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, tripolyphosphoric acid, and salts thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) A water-absorbent resin ~~obtainable~~obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the water-absorbent resin has Yellow Index of 12 or less, after allowing to stand at 50°C and 90% relative humidity for 20 days.

6. (Original) An absorbent comprising a water-absorbent resin obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, and a hydrophilic fiber.

7. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent of claim 6, wherein the absorbent is kept between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable sheet.

8. (Cancelled)